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Approaches to teaching students by correspondence

The correspondent form of education has always been popular in Ukraine. But if it concerns learning languages it causes certain difficulties as it demands skill formation and this process is possible to fulfill only under the condition of systematic work and control. Teaching correspondent students requires a special approach.

Firstly, it should be expressed in the particular organization of learning material which anticipates all possible problems the students may have. Moreover, effective support through the materials also involves a large amount of audio laboratory work combined with visual aids and keys. It provides the students with possibility to obtain the accuracy in phonetics, grammar, vocabulary at the initial steps and gives the feeling of success and awareness of what they are doing which is vital in the learning process.

Secondly, in independent learning contexts, the emphasis on autonomy and the acquisition of metacognitive skills must be put. Thus, on the one hand, the main task of a correspondent students' tutor is to support students with the materials on learning strategies and study skills, language awareness activities and practical guide in the development of specific language skills. On the other hand, tutors should teach them how to be autonomous and self-regulated and encourage searching for the strategies which work best for them.

Why is it so important to be autonomous learners? Because they understand the purpose of their learning program, accept responsibility for their learning, share in the setting of learning goals, take initiatives in planning and executing learning activities, and regularly review their learning and evaluate its effectiveness.